(d) whether it is also a fact that all these drugs are exempted from price control;

(e) what are the basis of exemption and how such an action will help to boost indigenous production and availability at reasonable prices;

(f) whether any company has been licensed to produce these drugs; and

(g) if so, what are the names of these companies alongwith the licensed capacity and stage of manufacture of the drugs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(d) and (e) The above drugs were exempted from price control on the basis of recommendations of the Kelkar Committee.

(f) and (g) Details of licences issued from time to time are published regularly by the Indian Investment Centre in their Monthly News Letter. Copies of the publications are available in the Parliament Library.

Verification of Purchase invoices of Bulk Drugs

1428. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3599 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the function of leader prices of Category II formulations particularly when such prices are not applicable to the small scale sector units;

(b) what are the reason for non-verification of purchase invoices of bulk drugs while fixing the prices of formulations and why this procedure has not been adopted;

(c) whether it is a fact that non-verification of purchase invoices gives unintended benefit to formulaters and deprive the consumer from the availability of medicines at reasonable prices;

(d) the names of the bulk drugs based on which prices of formulations were fixed under DPCO, 1987 without the verification of purchase invoices;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is reviewing the situation and is refixing the prices of finished medicines based on purchase invoices; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 provides for fixation of ceinling prices and not leader prices.

(b) to (f) The prices of bulk drugs keep fluctuating in the open market. The Sub Committee is, therefore, guided by notified prices/weighted average prices of the concerned bulk drugs for considering in the determination of prices of formulations. However, purchase invoices are also verified wherever found necessary.

Import of Rifampicin

1429. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3723 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of import of intermediate by producers of Reifampicin without approval of phased manufacturing programme or in contravention of phased manufacturing programme has come to the notice of his Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that instances of import of Rifampicin in

the guise of 3 Formyl Rifa SV have come to the notice of his Ministry;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rifampicin was being sold at Rs. 2400 per Kg. upto August, 1988, when the import content was $ 209 per Kg. in domestic production; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by his Ministry to investigate the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The price of Rifampicin bulk drug was fixed at Rs. 3098 per Kg. in October, 1986 based on the recommendation of BICP and was subsequently reduced to Rs. 3000 per Kg. in January, 1987 and further reduced to Rs. 2500 per Kg. on 28-9-1988. International prices of bulk drugs and intermediates fluctuate widely from time to time.

Report about the Categorisation of Vitamins

1430 SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 353 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee recommended that combination of vitamin formulations would be price controlled whereas single ingredient vitamin formulations would be price decontrolled;

(b) whether it is a fact that the list of category II bulk drugs recommended by Kelkar Committee includes Vitamins A, B1, B2, C and B6, etc.

(c) whether it is also a fact that vitamin bulk drugs were price decontrolled by the Ministry at their own level and this resulted in steep increases in their prices;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Kelkar Committee has submitted supplementary report after removing discrepencies and anomalies;

(e) when was the report submitted and what are their recommendations in respect of bulk vitamins;

(f) what are the details of main recommendations and what are the names of bulk drugs which have been recommended for inclusion on the basis of representations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The Kelkar Committee recommended that all vitamins when used in combinations would come under category II of price control and that if used singly would not be price controlled. Keeping in view these recommendations, bulk vitamins were kept out of control. However Vitamins A and C are since being brought under price conrtol;

(d) to (f) The Supplementary report submitted by the Kelkar Committee is under examination.

Details of Overcharging

1431. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 394 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) when was the details in regard to overcharging asked in respect to the drugs mentioned under Annexure-I alongwith the names of drug companies from whom details were called;

(b) the names of the companies who provided the details;

(c) whether it is a fact that the most of the companies did not respond;

(d) if so, what action was taken by his Ministry against such companies so as to obtain the details;